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Agenda item 68

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 46/49 of 9 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with item 68, the First Committee had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/47/29).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.31 AND REV.1

5. On 30 October, Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/C.1/47/L.31), which was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 32nd meeting, on 12 November.

6. Also on 12 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.31/Rev.1), which contained the following change: operative paragraph 6, which had read:

> "6. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1993, with a duration of ten working days and with the possibility of holding another session of five working days, if necessary"

was revised to read:

> "6. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1993, with a duration of not more than ten working days".

7. In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.31/Rev.1, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on its programme budget implications (A/C.1/47/L.49).

8. At the 34th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.31/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 98 to 3, with 31 abstentions (see para. 9). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian

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2/ Subsequently, the delegation of Kenya indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution, and the delegation of Spain indicated that it had intended to abstain.

Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolution 46/49 of 9 December 1991 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report on the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, 3/

Recalling further paragraphs 15 and 16, chapter III, of the Final Document adopted by the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, 4/

Affirming the importance of the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace to achieve the goals contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,

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3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

4/ See A/47/675-S/24816, annex.

Welcoming the positive developments in international political relations, which offer opportunities for enhancing peace, security and cooperation, and expressing the hope that the new spirit of international cooperation will be reflected in the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to that end,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 5/

Noting with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to host the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo,

Noting also that it may not be possible to convene the first stage of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean in accordance with resolution 46/49 and urging that consideration be given to the timing of such a conference at Colombo at the appropriate time,

Desirous of continuing its efforts for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean,

Considering the need for new alternative approaches for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 5/

2. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to consider new alternative approaches leading to the achievement of the goals contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, taking into account the changing international situation;

3. Also requests the Ad Hoc Committee to address the complex ramifications of the issues involved and differing perceptions on these issues as well as the future role of the Ad Hoc Committee and to make recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

4. Decides to convene, as early as possible thereafter, the Conference at Colombo with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean;

5. Calls upon the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/47/29).

6. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1993, with a duration of not more than ten working days;

7. Also requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".